

Dear Co-Chairs Cohen and Gresko, Vice Chairs Slap and Palm, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and members of the Environment Committee:

I write in opposition to HB 5295 ***AN ACT CONCERNING AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION***. Specifically, section 5 of the bill permits the operation and inspection of rabbit processing facilities in the state, and the sale by such facilities of rabbit meat to various consumers.

Recently, the Governor announced the prospect of two Israeli companies, Aleph Farms and Future Meat Technologies, coming to Connecticut to expand their business operations in the U.S. These companies are exciting new firms in the cultivated meat industry that is rapidly gaining momentum around the globe. The sustainable technologies they and other innovative companies are developing to lead the world in abandoning cruel and destructive animal agriculture are humane and far more environmentally and climate friendly.

In fact, animal agriculture companies such as JBS, the world's largest meat producer, have themselves begun investing aggressively in the cultivated meat space. JBS has made major acquisitions in cultivated meat start-ups in Spain and Australia and established Brazil's first cultivated meat research center. Clearly even these producers can see that the future of food and the survival of the planet lie in moving away from the current methods of breeding, growing and slaughtering animals for food.

It is discouraging to see, at the same time the state is reaching out to companies that may help establish Connecticut as a compassionate and forward-thinking state in which to do business, this proposed legislation that further entrenches Connecticut in the cruel and unsustainable animal agriculture industry and mind-set. Especially with this particularly repellent proposal, which would allow the senseless slaughter of gentle animals that are estimated to be the third most popular pet kept in American households.

Please reject HB 5295 and this unfortunate proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Respectfully,

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